AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) A method for the offline parameterization of a field device for process automation technology with the help of an operating program BW running on an operating device B, which is normally used for parameterization an online field device, comprising the steps of:

communicating the operating program BW with a field device F1 over a data bus D for online parameterization and for which no device description is available describing the offline behavior of the field device F1; and

communicating the operating program BW with a copy of the device software program GS running on a device different from the field device F1, thereby simulating an online field device F1.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the copy of the device software program GS and the operating program [[B]] BW are executed together on the operating device B.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the copy of the device software program GS and the operating program [[B]] BW communicate over a virtual COM-interface.

12. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the operating device has a Windows® platform.

13. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the copy of the device software program GS is surrounded by a Windows® shell.

14. (Previously presented)   The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the copy of the device software program GS is surrounded by a DTM shell.

15. (Previously presented)   The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the operating device B is a laptop computer unit.

16. (Previously presented)   The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein parameter settings of the offline parametering are transferred to the field device manufacturer for pre-configuring of field devices.